CHAPTER XXIV

TERMS APPLIED TO PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES

The Rwala tribe camps in northern Arabia between latitude 28° and 34° north and longitude 36° and 42° east. For the various topographical features of this area the tribe has strictly defined terms, of which we noted the following:

ʿAbd: black cone

Abraḳ: dark rock partly covered with reddish sand

ʿAḍaʾ: both dead and live bushes, grasses, excrements, clay, coarse sand, and any débris brought down by a torrent

ʿAḍra: pastures defiled by the excrements of countless herds

ʿAjârât or *ʿejârât*: huge, flat-topped elevations

ʿAḳla: a well by a channel or in a valley, which caves in after heavy rains and has to be restored

ʿAḳûla: a rather small, low depression in a plain, where the rain water gathers

ʿAlâme (pl., *ʿalâmât*): landmark

ʿAmijja: the pear-shaped hollow of a *moḳr* rain well

ʿAnza (dimin., *ʿunejza*): a long flat-topped hillock rising from a plain

ʿArejž: a long arm of a sand desert

ʿArǧa (pl., *ʿarǧât*): a turn of a valley or gully

ʿArḳûb: a slope; steep rocky hillside

ʿAsâma: scorched tract of land without pasture or water

Aṣbaʿa (pl., *aṣâbeʿ*): "fingers," a row of low isolated cones

Baḥṣa: soil from which the rain water runs off quickly

Barârît: desolate, waterless regions; camel paths across such regions

Barbak: a small artificial rain pond

Barḥûs: movable sharp ridge of sand dunes or drifts, bare of vegetation

Barrâde (pl., *barârîd*): a path trodden out by camels between stones or gravel

Bâṭen: broad and deep valley without any channel

Baṭḥa (pl., *baṭḥât*): a shallow river bed

Baṭîn (pl., *buṭnân*): a low hillside, slope, base